

NOTES ON *EMPODIUM* AND A NEW SPECIES OF *PAURIDIA*

M. F. THOMPSON

(Botanical Research Unit, Stellenbosch)

ABSTRACT

The combination, *Empodium veratrifolium* (Willd.) Thompson, is made. A new species, *Pauridia longituba* Thompson, is described.

UITTREKSEL

AANTEKENINGE OOR *EMPODIUM* EN 'N NUWE SOORT *PAURIDIA*.

Die kombinasie, *Empodium veratrifolium* (Willd.) Thompson, is gemaak. 'n Nuwe spesie, *Pauridia longituba* Thompson, is beskryf.

EMPODIUM SALISB.

In Kew Bulletin (1962) Bullock discussed the correct name for the taxon known variously as *Fabricia* Thunb., *Forbesia* Eckl. ex Nel, *Empodium* Salisb. and *Curculigo* Gaertn. section *Empodium* Benth. He showed *Empodium* Salisb. to be the legitimate name with *Empodium plicatum* (L.f.) Salisb. as the type of the genus. He reduced *Forbesia* to synonymy but did not make the necessary species combinations. As the genus is still being studied and some of the names may need to be reduced to synonymy, I do not wish to make the combinations now except for the species included in a book to be published later this year.

Empodium veratrifolium (Willd.) Thompson comb. nov.

Hypoxis veratrifolium Willd., Sp. Pl. 2: 109 (1799).

Curculigo veratrifolia Bak., in J. Linn. Soc. 17: 123 (1878).

Hypoxis plicata Jacq. Ic. 2, t. 367 (1795) Excluding synonyms.

Curculigo plicata Ait. var. *veratrifolia* Bak. in Fl. Cap. 6: 173 (1896).

Forbesia plicata (Ait.) Nel var. *veratrifolia* (Bak.) Nel in Bot. Jahrb. 51: 290 (1914).

Although Baker and Nel regarded this as a variety of *E. plicatum*, the completely exposed ovary on a long pedicel, the extremely short ovary beak, the growth habit and the fully developed leaves at the time of flowering distinguish it sufficiently as an independent species.

Pauridia longituba Thompson, sp. nov., *P. minuta* (L.f.) Dur. & Schinz affinis, sed perianthii tubo longo et pedicello brevissimo differt.

Accepted for publication 3rd March, 1972.

Cormus globosus, circa 6—7 mm diam., fibris rigidis reticulosis tectus. *Folia* vagina inclusa, glabra, lineari-canaliculata, circa 1 mm lata, flores superans, *Pedunculi* plures, uniflori, breves. *Pedicellus* brevissimus, 0—2 mm longus. *Bracteae* binatae, oppositae, setaceae, inaequales, pedicello longiores, longior ad 10 mm longa. *Flores* regulares, albi; tubus angustus, cylindricus, 8—30 mm longus; segmenta tubo 2—3 plo breviora, ovato-lanceolata, subacuta, interiora quam exteriora paulo parviora. *Stamina* tria, fauce corollae inserta, segmentis interioribus opposita; filamenta brevina, 0.4—1.5 mm longa; antherae basifixae, 1.5—2.75 mm longae; thecis duabus longitudinaliter dehiscentibus. *Ovarium* ovoideum, 3-loculare, placentatione axile, ovulis in quoque loculo multis; stylus perianthii tubo paulo brevior; stigma ad 5 mm longum, trifidum, basi appendicibus tribus parvis. *Fructus* indehiscens, saepe basi foliorum partim inclusus. *Semina* globosa, nigra, nitida, verrucosa.

Type: 3217 DD (Vredenburg), shallow soil on granite boulders two miles south of Vredenburg, *Thompson 92* (STE, holo., PRE, NBG).

Corm globose, about 6—7 mm in diam., covered with rigid reticulate fibres. *Leaves* included in a sheath, glabrous, linear-canaliculate, $\pm$ 1 mm wide, overtopping the flowers. *Peduncles* many, one-flowered, short. *Pedice*l very short, 0—2 mm long. *Bracts* two, opposite, setaceous, unequal, longer than the pedicel, the longer up to 10 mm long. *Flowers* regular, white; perianth tube narrow cylindric, 8—30 mm long; lobes spreading $\frac{1}{3}$ — $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the tube, ovate-lanceolate, subacute, the inner slightly smaller. *Stamens* three, inserted in the throat of the perianth-tube opposite the inner segments; filaments short 0.4—1.5 mm; anthers basifixed, 1.5—2.75 mm long, 2-theous, splitting longitudinally. *Ovary* ovoid, 3-locular, placentation axile, ovules numerous in each chamber; style slightly shorter than the perianth tube; stigma up to 5 mm long, trifid with three small appendages at the base. *Fruit* indehiscens, often partially enclosed in the leaf sheaths. *Seeds* globose, black, shiny, warty.

CAPE—3217 DD (Vredenburg): Witklip farm near Vredenburg, *Thompson 21a* (NBG) 89 (STE, PRE), Vredenburg, *Thompson 92* (STE, PRE, NBG); Paternoster, *Thompson 95* (STE, PRE); Veldrift, *Thompson 290* (PRE); Titosklip, *Axelson 212* (NBG).

The genus *Pauridia* has been variously placed in the Amaryllidaceae and Haemodorumaceae and most recently in the Hypoxidaceae as recognized by Hutchinson. Although there are only three stamens which lie opposite the inner perianth segments, in all other aspects *Pauridia* is obviously closely related to the rest of the Hypoxidaceae.

Pauridia longituba differs from *P. minuta*, the only other species in the genus, in having a very long perianth tube (2—3 times as long as the lobes) and virtually no pedicle, leaving the bracts almost adjacent to the ovary.

This species is confined to the shallow soil on granite outcrops in the Vredenburg—Paternoster area. It flowers in winter (May—June) when the hollows in the rocks often contain water.